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## COLONEL SMITH SUCCEEDS WILLYS AS EXECUTIVE HEAD OF REPUBLIC TRUCK

### Control of Big Company Passes Into Hands of Western Interests

#### BABCOCK IS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT

WINSLOW, WAGNER, MAXWELL, CRISP, PROUD, AND GELSTON ARE NEW DIRECTORS.

#### C. of C. Has Started New Year

The annual meeting of the Alma Chamber of Commerce was held in the Alma High School auditorium on Tuesday evening at which time six new directors were selected for the board to succeed the retiring members, and on Wednesday morning when the board convened for its first meeting with the new members H. S. Babcock, was elected as president.

The attendance at the annual meeting of about 60 members was very small when the number of members of the organization is taken into consideration.

President Gerber called the meeting to order and told in his opening address of the need of all work being done properly if the various committees and the entire organization are to function properly.

Mr. H. E. Reece, the retiring secretary, who recently resigned to accept a position in Saginaw, read the financial report which was adopted.

This was followed by the election of the new directors. The directors whose terms were expiring refused to be candidates for re-election on the ground that they believed the very best efforts could be secured if more people were to become closer connected with the organization. This resulted in the selection of six entirely new directors, Glen Crisp, R. B. Wagner, W. S. Proud, Rev. W. L. Gelston, Joseph Winslow and Floyd Maxwell.

Wednesday morning the board met and elected new officers for the coming year, the other officers wishing to retire from the places. H. S. Babcock of The Record was elected as president, Ralph B. Wagner as vice president and Glen Crisp as treasurer.

Wednesday noon following the regular weekly luncheon of the organization the newly elected officers and directors were called upon by Chairman Robert King for short addresses.

Mr. Babcock called attention to the need of co-operation if the work of the board was to succeed as it should. He also spoke of the difficulties that the board was forced to contend with during the past year, and the hopes that were held for a betterment in the conditions this year. He spoke of the work of Mr. Reece, retiring secretary-manager, and at the suggestion of the new president Mr. Reece was given a rising vote of thanks for his efforts in behalf of the Alma organization.

R. B. Wagner, the new vice president, called attention to two southern cities, slightly larger than Alma, one with 38 small industries. He spoke of the fine way the city with the many small industries was weathering the depression and the bad effect upon the other and he expressed the hope that Alma might secure two or three small industries during the year to help solidify the city.

Rev. Gelston, one of the new directors called attention to the need of paying off the indebtedness of the board and getting it into a good financial condition, of the need of eliminating conditions which allow people to take advantage of the downtrodden, which kills the very spirit of fellowship that the Chamber of Commerce endeavors to build up, and the need of a closer relation with the farmers of the district.

Joseph Winslow called attention to some of the suggestions that were being worked out by the Merchants' Bureau, the desire to go out and speak before the farmer organizations and to get into closer contact with them.

W. S. Proud in a few words made a prediction that Alma would be a city of 15,000 in less than 10 years.

Dr. T. J. Carney, when called upon, called attention to the big thing that was being done by reason of the weekly luncheons and stated that there was no need of pessimism over the

#### Picture Returns To The M. E. Church

The famous photoplay, "The Stream of Life," will return to the First Methodist Episcopal church Sunday afternoon and evening for its third showing, it has been announced.

Such has been the demand for the photoplay, even after its first two showings at the Church that it was decided to again bring it to Alma that everyone who has not had the opportunity of seeing this wonderful picture might have full opportunity, to take advantage of the occasion.

"The Stream of Life" is highly spoken of by men high in the moving picture world and by the press. James Hoff, writing in the Moving Picture World said that as a production he believed "The Stream of Life" to be a new note in pictures and equally as great as Griffith's "Birth of a Nation."

Because of the demand to see the picture the church authorities are asking that full opportunity be given for everyone who has not seen the picture to see it Sunday. It is requested that those who have seen it once give the others a like opportunity.

#### SAGINAW SECURES SECRETARY REECE

ALMA MAN TO BECOME ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF SAGINAW ORGANIZATION.

H. E. Reece, secretary-manager of the Alma Chamber of Commerce, who resigned his position here recently, will join the staff of the Saginaw Board of Commerce according to announcement that has been made by the Saginaw Board.

Mr. Reece will join the Saginaw organization on March 6 as assistant secretary in charge of committee activities. It was stated by Charles E. Haensel, secretary of the Saginaw Board of Commerce, that Mr. Reece's selection is a result of a plan by the board to expand and systematize the work of its committees and to put them on a basis where they will be of the greatest possible value to the organization and its members. The committee organization will be developed with the idea of getting as many of the board's members as possible interested and taking an active part in the work.

Twenty-seven committees are contemplated, Mr. Haensel stated in his announcement, in the scheme of organization that is being worked out, and it is these committees that Mr. Reece will be in direct charge of. Some of these committees have already been named and others will be named from time to time as Mr. Reece becomes actively engaged in the work in Saginaw.

Mr. Reece, who is closing his work with the local organization this week, has been the secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce here for the past year. He aided greatly in the re-organization of the old Board of Trade into the new organization and during the past year has been lending his best efforts to get the new Chamber of Commerce going in the right direction, this during a year of business depression, when startling results could not be expected. The organization year of the work, however, has seen some very good things accomplished by the Chamber of Commerce under his direction.

**NARROW ESCAPE**  
William Bourikas of the European Cafe, and Ted. Johnson of Breckenridge had a narrow escape from serious injury or death Wednesday when an automobile in which they were driving to Ithaca, went into a deep ditch two miles east and a mile south of Ithaca. There is a bridge across the road, where the auto went into the ditch, which cuts across the road at that point. When the auto came to a stop in the ditch it was headed under the bridge. The auto was badly damaged, but both men escaped with only a few bruises and scratches.

500 Rag Rugs—25x50 inches, every color under the sun, plain or figured, regular price \$2.25 values, for Saturday only 98c. D. W. Robinson, Alma.—advertisement.

#### A GREAT LOSS SUFFERED FROM SEVERE STORM

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN CUT FROM COMMUNICATION WITH WORLD.

#### Damage Is Being Slowly Repaired

Northern Michigan is beginning to emerge from the worst storm that ever hit that section of the state, a storm which has caused a loss to Michigan that cannot be estimated, and some of which cannot be replaced for years, as thousands of trees in the section north and west from this city, were totally ruined, including fruit trees, whose limbs were torn from them or the trunks themselves broken from the heavy coating of ice that they received.

The damage in Alma luckily was not heavy, the worst of the storm being north from this city. Many trees in Alma were ruined, and some damage done in basements by water, but it is very small in comparison to the losses sustained in Muskegon, Mt. Pleasant, Clare, Cadillac, and many other western and northern Michigan communities. Muskegon has estimated her damage at \$500,000.

Scores of towns in that district were entirely cut off from railroad, telegraph and telephone communication with the outside world for several days, and in fact it was not until Tuesday afternoon that the telephone wires between Mt. Pleasant and Alma were again in order. Telegraph wires between the cities were still out yesterday, and probably will be for some days yet, as thirty telegraph poles between Shepherd and Mt. Pleasant were broken off in the storm.

The damage to the Central Michigan Light & Power Company's lines in Mt. Pleasant and Clare will run into the thousands of dollars. The Union Telephone Company suffered a great damage from ruined lines north from this district.

Railroad traffic in that section of the state was completely blocked for some days. It was not until Monday of this week that the first train entered or departed from Traverse City. Not until the first of the week was service restored on the Ann Arbor railroad north through the stricken district.

Floods accompanied the storm in many communities, even the main streets of Mt. Pleasant being flooded for a time to a depth of 15 to 18 inches.

Thousands of shade and fruit trees have been ruined, their trunks broken off, or the limbs torn from the trunks as if wrenched loose by some giant. The damage caused by the storm in this respect will be an irreparable loss to the entire state. The condition of the trees in Mt. Pleasant furnishes a good example of the condition throughout the district. That city has sent for a number of tree experts to go to that city and devote their skill to the saving of such trees as are not beyond saving by careful painstaking doctoring. Other cities are also making heroic efforts to save their trees.

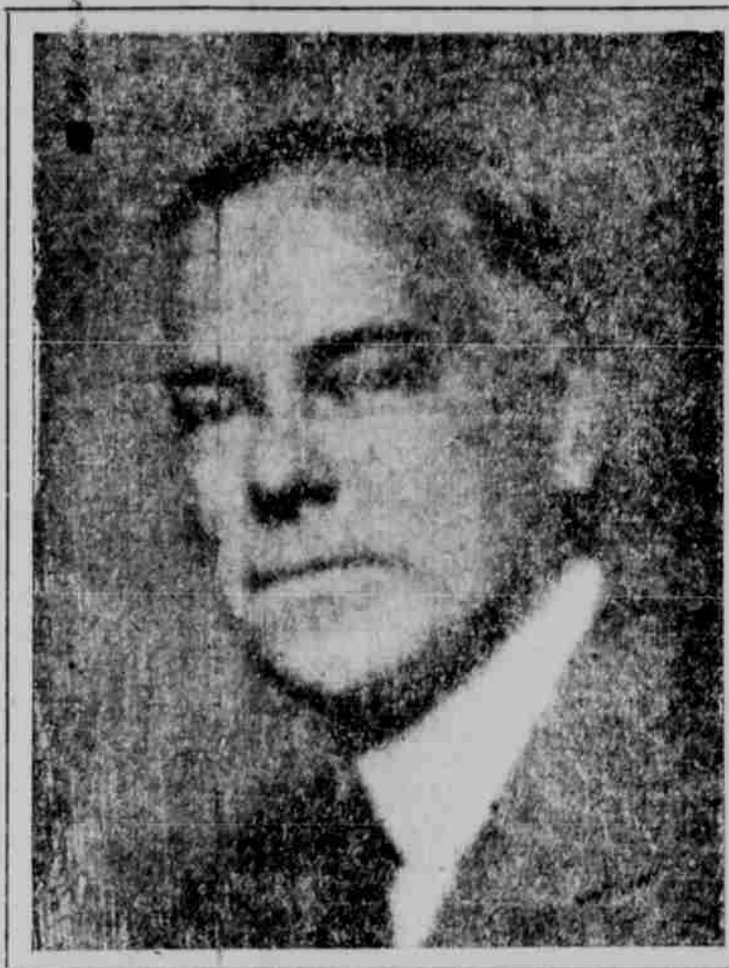
The great damage to utility lines is causing a slow work in repair, as thousands of telephone, telegraph, and light poles were broken off, and companies are experiencing great difficulty in securing new poles quickly, so great is the demand for them. There is hardly a company that suffered from the storm that had poles enough so that it could quickly replace its lines.

While Gratiot county was hit by the storm the damage in the county was slight as compared with the devastation that has visited some other counties, and its people certainly have something to be highly thankful for.

We will buy horses at the Arcadia Livery and Sales Stable, Alma, on Saturday, March 11. Sam. Weinburg, Detroit.—41-2w

Nemo ad, see page six. The Quality Shop, Ithaca, Mich.—advertisement.

#### EXECUTIVE HEAD OF REPUBLIC



COL. FRANK E. SMITH

#### Alma Teacher Died Tuesday

Harold Palmer, instructor in manual training at the Washington school, and assistant athletic coach at the local schools, died at 11:30 p. m., Tuesday evening at his home in Morenci, following an operation for tumor.

Mr. Palmer had been exceptionally popular with the teachers of the schools and with the pupils under his charge and word of his death, which reached here Wednesday morning, came as a big shock to his Alma friends.

The funeral services will be held at the late home in Morenci Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. A number of the teachers from the Alma schools will attend the services.

#### PLAY BY SENIORS WELL PRESENTED

ATTENDANCE AT HOME TALENT KEPT DOWN BY DISAGREABLE WEATHER.

"Stop Thief," the play presented last Friday evening by the High School Senior class, was one of the best acted amateur productions which the school has sponsored.

The entire cast was taken exceptionally well and exhibit the remarkable training that the characters must have had. The play was under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Wells, head of the English department, and to her must be given the greatest share of the credit for the success of the play. The best of the masculine actors was probably Phil Lewis who, as Jack Doolan, took the leading part in the production. Of the girls, Lell Smith, as Nell, took her part exceptionally well. To be sure, the entire cast must be complimented for there was no weak character portrayal in the entire play.

The play itself is a very entertaining comedy of the farce order. The action is centered about the disappearance of certain valuables from the home of Mr. Carr. There are two kleptomaniacs and two crooks involved and the complications ensuing are highly amusing.

The attendance at the presentation was rather poor, owing, in part, to the disagreeable weather. The sparse audience, however, may be traced to the condition of things in the city. It is not known just how the Seniors emerged financially.

The basque effect in the new Taffeta Dresses are just irresistible, at Robinson's for \$16.95 and \$25. D. W. Robinson, Alma.—advertisement.

#### H. J. WINCHELL DIED ON MONDAY

LIBRARIAN FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS VICTIM OF DREAD PNEUMONIA.

H. J. Winchell, a highly respected resident of this city for the past 25 years, died at his home on West Center street, Monday, February 27, after a few weeks illness of pneumonia at the age of 75 years.

During the greater part of his life Mr. Winchell was station agent and an operator for the Grand Trunk, G. R. & L., and the Pere Marquette railroads, spending 44 years with the latter road, over a score of which was spent as the station agent in this city.

During the past four years Mr. Winchell has been the librarian at the Alma Public Library, where he greatly widened the circle of friends that he had in this community. He was especially liked at the library by the younger generation, because of his kindness in aiding the children in their efforts to secure good literature, and in assisting them in finding references.

Mr. Winchell was born in LaPorte, Indiana, September 26, 1846. May 13, 1874, he was united in marriage to Julia E. Clifford, four children being born to this union, three of whom died in infancy. He leaves to mourn their loss his wife, one son, Walter H. Winchell, wife and daughter of Chicago, also one brother, Alonzo Winchell, of St. Louis, Missouri, and a sister, Arvilla, of Novi, Michigan.

The funeral services were held from the late home, 216 West Center st., Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, Rev. Anderson of the Christian church and Rev. M. W. Duffey of the M. E. church officiating. The body was taken to Lakeview for burial.

#### News Stand To Move This Week

The Alma News Company, conducted by M. D. Wilcox, which has been located for the past few years in the Fraker block near the corner of Superior and Woodworth avenue will be moved the latter part of this week to the Gibbs block on Woodworth.

The new location, three doors south of Eichenberg's grocery, the proprietor believes, offers much better quarters for his business. It is understood that it is the intention of Mr. Wilcox to dispose of his cigar and tobacco counters at the new location and make the news stand a Gift Shop, in addition to handling the lines of magazines and papers that have been carried in the past.

#### Management is Permanently Centered in This City Around Present Organization

Alma, Mich., March 2, 1922.—At a Directors' Meeting of the Republic Motor Truck Co. Inc., held in New York City on Friday, February 24th, the resignation of all Officers and Directors of the Company were tendered for acceptance at the pleasure of the Board.

It is understood that this action followed the passing of control of the Company from Eastern interests, headed by Mr. Willys, to Western interests centered in Michigan and Illinois. The resignations of Mr. John N. Willys, as President and Director of the Company, of Mr. Walter P. Chrysler, as a Director and Member of the Executive Committee, and of Mr. James E. Keppeler, as a Director, were accepted, and Colonel Frank E. Smith was elected President, succeeding Mr. Willys, and Messrs. O. W. Hayes, H. D. Minich, and Charles G. Rhodes, were elected as Directors in the places made vacant by the resignations of Messrs. Willys, Chrysler and Keppeler.

Both O. W. Hayes and H. D. Minich were made Vice Presidents of the Company, and Charles G. Rhodes was elected Secretary.

The resignation of Mr. H. I. Shepherd, as Treasurer of the Company, was accepted, but he will continue as a Director, as will also Mr. W. J. Baxter, until their successors can be determined upon, at which time their resignations will be accepted by the Board.

These changes bring back to the West the control, which was transferred to New York at the time Mr. Willys and his associates purchased the stock of the Company from Messrs. Burt, Rhodes, Moore, King and their associates in Michigan.

It is understood the relinquishment of control by Mr. Willys is occasioned by his having so many other interests, particularly Willys-Overland, which will take practically all of his time and attention in future.

The Executive Offices of the Willys-Overland Company and other Willys interests, are being closed and all of Mr. Willys activities will be centered in or about Toledo. Mr. H. I. Shepherd, who has been associated with Mr. Willys in a financial way, in connection with many of his Companies, is reported to be joining the organization of one of the large Cleveland banks.

#### Republic Largest Truck Manufacturer.

Republic is the largest exclusive manufacturer of Motor Trucks in the World, and has produced and has running in every Country of the World, and every State of the United States, more trucks than any other manufacturer, exclusive of Ford.

Republic has a more widely distributed product than any other manufacturer, and reaches more vocational lines than does any other manufacturer (excepting Ford), this being due principally to the fact that Republic has always built a highly specialized and low-priced product.

During the past eighteen months, like all Automobile and Truck Manufacturers, or, for that matter, all industry, Republic has gone through the throes of deflation, and is now emerging, with its "decks cleared for action", a complete, rightly priced, expertly engineered, and specialized product, and expects to maintain its position as the leader in the Motor Truck Industry.

Colonel Smith, who came to Republic as Vice President and General Manager in November, 1920, brought to the Company a knowledge of Automotive business, accumulated in an experience extending back almost to the inception of the Automotive Industry.

#### Future Prospects Bright.

Under Colonel Smith's management, and with the realization by him that the future of Trackless Transportation by Motor Truck is wholly contingent upon the kind of continuous and dependable SERVICE rendered, a complete re-organization and change in policy of Republic Service business, has been brought about, until now Republic stands in a position to render UNEQUALLED

SERVICE to its owners, no matter where they may be situated.

In the furtherance of the Service problem, and the working out of a comprehensive Sales Plan, Republic has either established or is in process of establishing, Branch Houses for distributing Trucks and Parts, at

Detroit  
Buffalo  
Albany  
Boston  
New York  
Newark  
Philadelphia  
Baltimore  
Atlanta  
Charlotte  
Pittsburgh  
St. Louis  
Kansas City  
Chicago  
San Francisco

and expects to establish additional Branches at other points during the next few months.

#### Increasing Dealer Organization

In accordance with the Sales and Service plan, Republic is adding to its already existing organization, new Dealers at the rate of approximately 300 per month, and expects to have upwards of 5,000 Dealers by the middle of the Summer.

#### Large Sales Volume Anticipated on New Bus

Realizing the future of Trackless Transportation in the carrying of passengers, Republic has obtained for its organization, one of the best transportation men from one of the large Eastern Railroads and has developed, with full knowledge of the requirements of passenger transportation, learned both from the point of view of actual operation of Street Car Companies and the actual building of Motor Trucks, a remarkable 25-passenger Motor Bus.

This REPUBLIC KNIGHT MOTORED BUS is at present in use by five of the largest Street Railroad Companies in the East, and is daily demonstrating its general efficiency and superiority over all competitive products.

The future transportation problem of the Street Railroads will necessitate the buying of large quantities of motor propelled busses, and Republic is in a strategic position to obtain a large amount of this business.

Street Railroads are faced with the alternative of either putting down rails and putting up wires to extend their lines, involving, as it does, large expenditures for power plant, etc., or the purchasing of busses to take care of such extension work.

Even if the Railroad Companies had the funds to extend their lines, the cost is prohibitive, and because the Motor Bus is a far more flexible unit, very much cheaper to produce or purchase in the first instance, and very much more efficient to operate and maintain in the second instance, providing the operating headway is in excess of five minutes, the Street Railroad Companies are bound to turn in their present dilemma to extensive use of Trackless Transportation in the form of motor propelled Busses.

#### Company's Management Centered in Alma

The shifting of the control of Republic into the West brings the majority of the Board of Directors to Alma, and will assure permanency and stability of the existing Management.

The new Board of Directors consists of: Colonel Frank E. Smith, Francis King, Charles G. Rhodes, O. W. Hayes, H. D. Minich, all of Alma; T. A. Burt of Urbana, Illinois; E. C. King, W. J. Baxter and H. I. Shepherd, of New York, and it is understood that the places on the Board, now occupied by Messrs. E. C. King, (Continued on page two)

**FORMER VESTABURG MAN DEAD**  
James Murtaugh, a former Vestaburg merchant, died at a hospital in Cheboygan, Tuesday, February 15. His body was taken to Breckenridge and buried Friday. He is survived by his sons, Ralph Murtaugh of Cheboygan and Dewitt Murtaugh of Vestaburg, besides other relatives and friends.